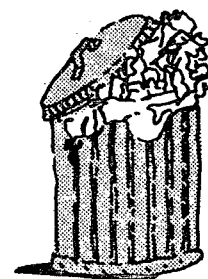




REUSABLE NEWS



EPA Calls for Comments on Paper Procurement Issues

Government procurement of products containing recycled materials is a key aspect of developing markets for recycling, and procuring agencies can play a strong leadership role in promoting the use of such products. EPA recently published a notice in the *Federal Register* addressing several issues related to government procurement of recycled goods, focusing on recycled paper.

EPA has issued five guidelines designed to encourage government purchase of products containing materials recovered from solid waste. To date, guidelines have been set for cement and concrete containing fly ash, paper and paper products containing recovered materials, lubricating oils containing re-refined oil, retread tires, and building insulation products. As procuring agencies have implemented these guidelines, a number of issues have arisen and been identified by EPA.

In the recent notice, EPA is requesting public comment on the following issues regarding possible changes to the paper procurement guideline:

■ **Postconsumer content standards** - Postconsumer paper is that which has been used as a consumer item (such as old newspapers). When the paper procurement guideline was issued, the Agency was not able to recommend postconsumer standards for writing and printing papers due to lack of widespread availability of these papers. During the last year, however, there have been developments in the paper industry that may make such

standards feasible for these grades of paper in the near future.

■ **Deinked content standards** - As a possible alternative to postconsumer content standards, EPA is considering recommending deinked wastepaper standards. A deinked wastepaper standard would include all postconsumer recovered materials and printed "preconsumer" waste (such as printer's overruns). The standard would include recovered materials that typically must be deinked before being converted into pulp for printing and writing papers.

Developments in the paper industry may make post-consumer standards for writing and printing papers feasible in the near future.

■ **Phased-in approach** - If it is not possible at this time to recommend either postconsumer or deinked wastepaper minimum content, EPA may consider a phased-in approach that would specify procuring agencies use a certain percentage of postconsumer or deinked wastepaper content at some future time.

■ **"Mill broke" definition** - Mill broke is defined as any paper waste generated before completion of the papermaking process. There is concern that some mills may be using only accumulated in-house paper waste to manufacture a paper batch

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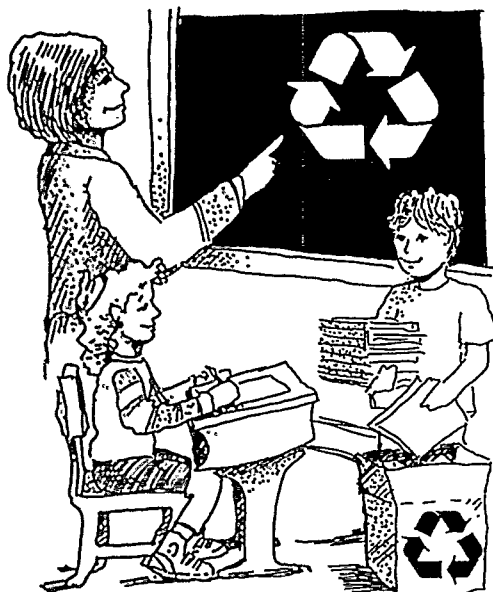
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Reusable News is the quarterly newsletter of the EPA Office of Solid Waste's Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division. *Reusable News* reports on the efforts of EPA and others to safely and effectively manage the nation's garbage, and provides useful information about key issues and concerns in MSW management. 🗑️

(Continued on page 8)

Program Rewards Excellence in MSW Education and Recycling

The Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA) is expanding its annual Excellence Awards Program this year to include two new areas: solid waste education and recycling. GRCDA presented its first excellence awards, in landfilling, in 1986. Each year thereafter the association has chosen to target for recognition an additional area or areas of growing national interest. In addition to landfilling, excellence awards are currently offered for achievement in waste collection and energy combustion (waste to energy).



Educating the public about solid waste issues is an important step in promoting improvements in federal, state, and local solid waste management. The Excellence in Solid Waste Education Program will reward efforts to bring high-quality educational programs to the classroom and the community. Awards will be offered in the categories of K-12 curricula and public education. The GRCDA Public Education Committee, made up of solid waste management professionals involved and interested in education, will judge the entries. Winners will be selected on the basis of technical accuracy, success in meeting goals, quality of communications, design quality, originality,

and timeliness of the program. All entries must be received by January 31, 1991.

For the first time this year as well, the Recycling and Waste Minimization Committee of GRCDA is launching an awards program in the area of recycling. Awards will be presented for excellence in five categories: collection, processing, marketing, source reduction, and public education. The application process for this program will be in two phases. After an initial screening phase, the awards committee will issue

The Excellence in Solid Waste Education Program will reward efforts to bring high-quality educational programs to the classroom and the community.

selected applicants a more in-depth application. The winners will be chosen from this second round of applications. Applications for the first phase are due December 31, 1990.

All of the GRCDA's Excellence Awards will be presented at the GRCDA 29th Annual International Symposium on Solid Waste Management, to be held August 12 to 15, 1991, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Within each program category, awards will be presented for Excellence, Meritorious Achievement, and Honorable Mention. The number of awards given will depend on the number of high-quality applications received.

For further information and application materials for the Excellence in Solid Waste Education Program, write to Lori Swain or Monica Hauck at GRCDA, P.O. Box 7219, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. To apply to the Recycling, Collection, Landfill, or Waste-to-Energy Excellence Programs, write to Bob Peters at the same address. ☐

Three New Tools for MSW Managers

Several hands-on documents are available to help state and local municipal solid waste decision-makers promote recycling, develop comprehensive solid waste management plans, and learn how to compost. The documents provide technical assistance, inform officials about efforts conducted in other municipalities, and suggest solid waste programs that can serve as models for use by towns and cities initiating their own new programs. With funding provided by EPA's Office of Cooperative Environmental Management and Office of Solid Waste, the International City Management Association (ICMA) compiled and printed the documents. They are:

- **Promoting a Municipal Recycling Program** (CLHS #40387, \$17.00). This handbook provides information on educational and promotional efforts developed by several cities and towns for their recycling programs. The handbook covers four municipalities: Seattle, Washington; Takoma Park, Maryland; Prairie Village, Kansas; and Homewood, Illinois. The handbook contains background information on each community's recycling program, as well as actual copies of the promotional and informational literature developed by the community to spread the word about recycling.
- **Solid Waste Master Plan** (CLHS #40388, \$17.00). Dakota County, Minnesota's master plan articulates goals, objectives, and policies for waste reduction, materials separation, processing, waste disposal, and implementation, as well as program costs.
- **Leaf Composting Program** (CLHS #40375, \$13.00). This report describes collection methods, compost facility operations, processing, distribution, and safety measures used in a successful composting program in Falls Township, Pennsylvania.

To order these documents, call ICMA at (202) 289-4262. ☐

EPA Publications

The following publications are available at no charge from the EPA RCRA/Superfund Hotline.
Call (800) 424-9346.

General

America's War on Waste - Environmental Fact Sheet	EPA/530-SW-90-002
Bibliography of Municipal Solid Waste Management Alternatives	EPA/530-SW-89-055
Characterization of Municipal Combustion Ash, Ash Extracts, and Leachates - Executive Summary	EPA/530-SW-90-029B
Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1990 Update - Executive Summary	EPA/530-SW-90-042A
Decision-Maker's Guide to Solid Waste Management (Volume I)	EPA/530-SW-89-072
Reusable News - Winter	EPA/530-SW-90-018
Reusable News - Spring	EPA/530-SW-90-039
Reusable News - Summer	EPA/530-SW-90-055
Sites for Our Solid Waste: A Guidebook for Effective Public Involvement	EPA/530-SW-90-019
Siting Our Solid Waste: Making Public Involvement Work	EPA/530-SW-90-020
Unit Pricing: Providing an Incentive to Reduce Waste	EPA/530-SW-91-005
Variable Rates in Solid Waste: Handbook for Solid Waste Officials - Executive Summary	EPA/530-SW-90-084A

Source Reduction

Be An Environmentally Alert Consumer	EPA/530-SW-90-034A
Characterization of Products Containing Lead and Cadmium in Municipal Solid Waste in the United States, 1970 to 2000 - Executive Summary	EPA/530-SW-89-015C
The Environmental Consumer's Handbook	EPA/530-SW-90-034B

Recycling

Recycling Brochure	EPA/530-SW-88-050
Recycling Works!	EPA/530-SW-89-014

Used Oil

How to Set Up a Local Program to Recycle Used Oil	EPA/530-SW-89-039A
Recycling Used Oil: For Service Stations and Other Vehicle Service Facilities	EPA/530-SW-89-039D
Recycling Used Oil: 10 Steps to Change Your Oil	EPA/530-SW-89-039C
Recycling Used Oil: What Can You Do	EPA/530-SW-89-039B

Plastics

Methods to Manage and Control Plastic Wastes - Executive Summary	EPA/530-SW-89-051A
The Facts About Plastics in the Marine Environment	EPA/530-SW-90-017B
The Facts on Degradable Plastics	EPA/530-SW-90-017D
The Facts on Recycling Plastics	EPA/530-SW-90-017E
Plastics: The Facts About Production, Use, and Disposal	EPA/530-SW-90-017A
Plastics: The Facts on Source Reduction	EPA/530-SW-90-017C

Educational Materials

Adventures of the Garbage Gremlin	EPA/530-SW-90-024
Let's Reduce and Recycle: Curriculum for Solid Waste Awareness	EPA/530-SW-90-005
Recycle Today: Educational Materials for Grades K-12	EPA/530-SW-90-025
Ride the Wave of the Future: Recycle Today!	EPA/530-SW-90-010
School Recycling Programs: A Handbook for Educators	EPA/530-SW-90-023

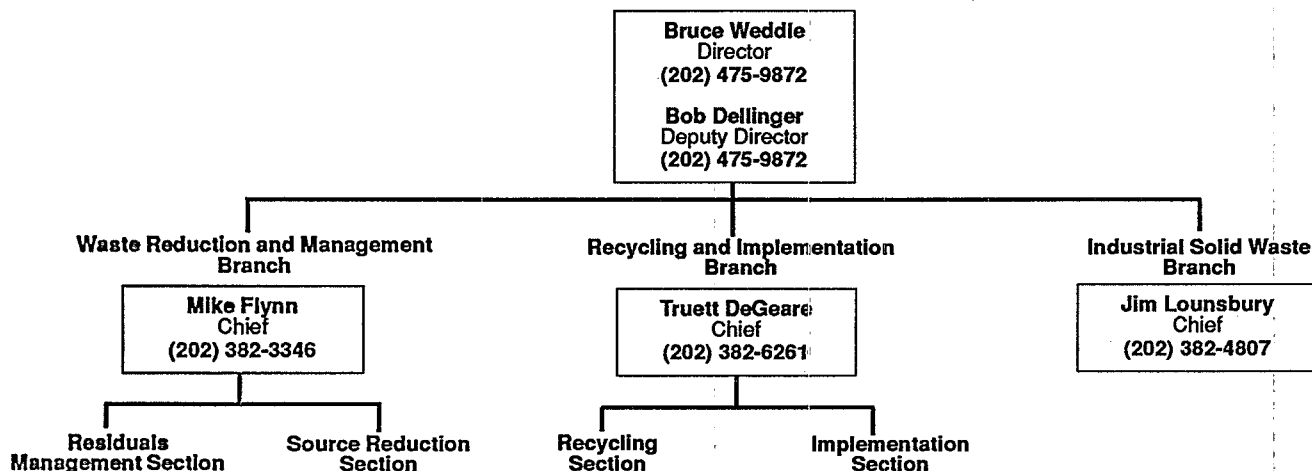
The following EPA publications are available for a fee from the National Technical Information Services (NTIS).
Call (703) 487-4650.

Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste Combustion Ash, Ash Extracts, and Leachate	PB90-187 154
Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1990 Update	PB90-215 112
The Effects of Weight- or Volume-Based Pricing on Solid Waste Management	PB91-111 484
Methods to Manage and Control Plastic Wastes	PB90-163 106
Office Paper Recycling: An Implementation Manual	PB90-199 431
Promoting Source Reduction and Recycling in the Marketplace	PB90-163 122
Variable Rates in Solid Waste: Handbook for Solid Waste Officials	PB90-272 063
Yard Waste Composting: A Study of Eight Programs	PB90-163 114

Municipal Solid Waste Contacts

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Regional Contacts

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JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
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Air and Waste Management Division
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U.S. EPA - Region 2
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278
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(212) 264-3384

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FTS 8-597-0982
(215) 597-0982

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(4WD)
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345 Courtland Street, NE.
Atlanta, GA 30365
FTS 8-257-2091
(404) 347-2091

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(312) 886-0976

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U.S. EPA - Region 6
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Dallas, TX 75202
FTS 8-255-6760
(214) 655-6760

Region 7

Chet McLaughlin
Waste Management Division
(STPG)
U.S. EPA - Region 7
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101
FTS 8-276-7666
(913) 551-7666

Region 8

Judith Wong
Hazardous Waste Management Division
(8HWM-RM)
U.S. EPA - Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2405
FTS 8-330-1667
(303) 293-1667

Region 9

Hazardous Waste Management Division
(H-3-1)
U.S. EPA - Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
FTS 8-484-2095
(415) 744-2095

Region 10

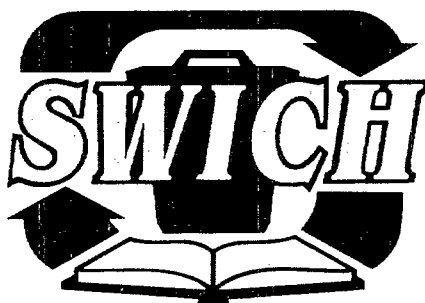
Mike Bussell
Hazardous Waste Division
(HW-072)
U.S. EPA - Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
FTS 8-399-2857
(206) 442-2857

SWICH Goes On Line

The Solid Waste Information Clearinghouse (SWICH) library is now available on a "user-friendly" electronic bulletin board. By accessing the bulletin board through a computer modem, users can view over 6,000 listings of journals, reports, studies, newsletters, proceedings, films, and videos, many of which include abstracts. Users can "search" for literature on a specific solid waste topic by title, author, selected key words, or type of media (journal, book, etc.) and date. Document listings also instruct users how to order publications, directly in some cases, through the bulletin at a minimal charge. SWICH also can be accessed on site or by phone.

Created through an EPA grant to the Governmental Refuse Collection and

Disposal Association (GRCDA), SWICH collects and disseminates information on all aspects of municipal solid waste management. The library, which grows daily due to donations by universities, industry, and government,



is just one of its services. In addition to the library, the SWICH electronic bulletin board allows users to access up-to-the-minute solid waste information, weekly legislative and regulatory updates, recent case studies, lists of experts, a calendar of events, and a listing of hotlines and other information sources. It even provides a forum for people to get answers to specific questions about solid waste issues.

During its first few months of operation, SWICH has responded to thousands of requests for information and literature, receiving an average of 30 calls per day. To learn more about how to use the SWICH bulletin board, call the SWICH Hotline at (800) 67-SWICH. ☐

EDF Campaigns to Save the World

In 1988, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) launched its first nationwide advertising campaign to promote recycling. The campaign with the Advertising Council was so successful, obtaining over \$28 million in free media time for the recycling message, that EDF is creating new public service announcements for both broadcast and print media this year.

The 1990-1991 campaign uses public service announcements that are upbeat and humorous, which EDF hopes will engage nonrecyclers' interest. The message of the recycling ads is: *Recycling. The everyday way to save the world.* "The ads convey that recycling is easy, and that individual participation does make a difference," says Emily Moore, EDF's Recycling Campaign Director.

The initial ads, conveying the message that "if you're not recycling, you're throwing it all away," generated over 120,000 telephone calls from individuals requesting further information on recycling. EDF sent out brochures to callers that included information on how to recycle, as well as referrals to local recycling facilities, hotlines, and regional coordinators.

The new ads, developed by Deutsch Inc. (which also created last year's ads), will be distributed this fall. EPA was a major sponsor of the ads, providing partial funding for the campaign both this year and last. For further information, contact Emily Moore, EDF, (212) 505-2100. ☐

**RECYCLING IS EASY.
YOU'VE ALMOST BEEN DOING IT
FOR YEARS.**



RECYCLING. THE EVERYDAY WAY TO SAVE THE WORLD.

To find out how, phone 1-800-CALL-EDF



Order Boosts Contractor Use of Recycled Paper

As part of EPA's policy to promote the use of recycled paper, EPA Administrator William Reilly recently issued an order that contractors under all new contracts use recycled paper when preparing reports for the Agency.

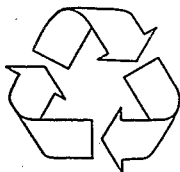
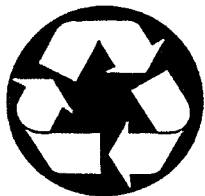
The order also states that, where possible, existing contracts should be modified to include the same requirements, and that recipients of EPA grants and cooperative agreement funds should use recycled paper, as well.


In a separate source reduction effort, EPA is encouraging contractors to use two-sided copying of all EPA deliverable reports. This order supplements existing EPA policy to use double-sided copying in internal Agency operations! ☐

A Symbol of Our Times

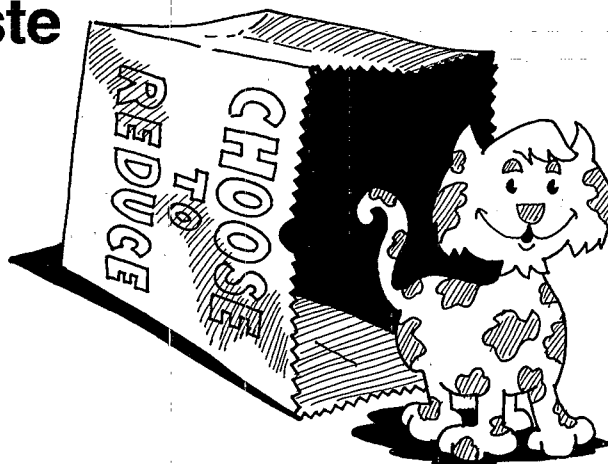
In 1971, the Recycled Paperboard Division of the American Paper Institute first adopted the recycling symbol as a means of telling consumers that products and packaging were made from high-quality recycled paper that might otherwise have ended up in landfills. Today, many leading manufacturers, retailers, supermarkets, and quick service restaurant chains display the symbol on their packaging and products.

The three arrow design represents the three phases of recycling—*collection* of recyclable materials, *production* into new recycled paperboard products and packaging, and *consumer recognition* of the importance of recycling in society. Consumers demonstrate this recognition by looking for the recycling symbol on packages when they shop, and purchasing items that bear it. According to a recent Gallup poll, 4 out of 10 consumers recognize the recycling symbol on products, and 7 out of 10 said that they would choose a product with the recycling symbol over one without if given a choice between two otherwise identical items.




The original recycling symbol consists of white arrows on a black or green circle, and indicates that products and packaging are made from recycled materials. Another symbol, known as the *recyclable* symbol, has white arrows on a white background and no circle. This symbol is used on products that can be recycled easily. To obtain free camera-ready art of the recycling symbol or to learn more about its use on paper and paperboard products, write: Manager, Recycled Paperboard Division, American Paperboard Institute, 260 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. 

Consumer Handbook Offers Creative Ways to Reduce Waste




Today, consumers face tough environmental decisions every time they shop. Even with good intentions, it's not always clear how to do the right thing. EPA's new booklet, *The Environmental Consumer's Handbook*, is designed to help consumers make environmentally aware decisions about the products and packaging they purchase, use, and ultimately dispose of. The handbook lists over 75 practical tips for reducing and recycling trash, including household hazardous waste.

The handbook points out that one way to cut down on trash is to reuse products and packages. Like the old tale that says cats have nine lives, so do many of the items people use everyday. For example, the container that began its life as a peanut butter jar can be washed and reused to store buttons, thumb tacks, or other items.

In addition to suggestions for reducing and recycling waste, the handbook also contains a glossary, a bibliography, and a listing of state environmental agencies and EPA Regional Offices. See the "Hot Off the Hotline" box on page 5 for ordering information. 

Great Lakes Workgroup Encourages Paper Reuse

At the initiative of EPA Region 5, a new pulp and paper workgroup has been established in the Great Lakes states. The goals of the group are to identify problems related to postconsumer wastepaper recycling and to formulate ways to increase the use of postconsumer wastepaper in the Great Lakes area. In addition to EPA Region 5, the nine-member workgroup includes representatives from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the American Paper Institute, paper manufacturers, brokers, and end users. Roger P.

Hoffman, Executive Vice President of Green Bay Packaging, is chairman of the workgroup. During its first meeting held in August, the group agreed to focus its efforts on increasing the use of old newspapers and lower grades of paper, encouraging organizations to buy products made from postconsumer wastepaper, preparing wastepaper quality guidelines, and increasing public education on wastepaper needs. For more information about the workgroup, contact Jay Bergamini at (312) 886-7598. 

Procurement Workshops Slated for 1991

EPA's 10 Regional Offices will host a series of workshops geared toward federal, state, and local officials on the procurement of recycled products. The workshops, which will be held in each EPA Region, will emphasize the important role of procurement in closing the recycling loop. These workshops will be held between January and June 1991.

The recent Governors' Symposium on Recycling and Recycled Product Procurement, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, served as a pilot for the series. Approximately 250 people attended the conference, which included workshops on such topics as paper procurement, collection of recyclables, container recycling, transportation (used oil and tires), and construction materials. EPA representatives attended the conference to gather information and suggestions for the upcoming series of Regional workshops. ☐

Integrated Waste Management Workshops Open Dialogue

For the second year, EPA will offer a series of regional workshops focusing on integrated solutions to solid waste issues. The workshops aim to share information and foster a dialogue among legislative officials, state solid waste program personnel, and other state and federal program staff. The workshops will emphasize implementation of the revised EPA criteria for MSW landfills. ☐

More information on these workshops will be provided in future issues of *Reusable News*.



Hot Off the Hotline...



QUESTION: Does the U.S. Postal Service print stamps on recycled paper?

ANSWER: The Postal Service does not at this time print stamps on recycled paper because of two major obstacles. First, the quality of recycled paper needed to produce the artwork that appears on stamps is so high that it would increase the Postal Service's paper costs by 20 percent. This would in turn raise the costs of mail service. Second, recycled paper contains luminescent materials, such as paper whiteners and ink, that interfere with the mail process equipment used in cancelling stamps. The Postal Service continues to work on solutions to these problems, however, and has plans to incorporate recycled paper into some of its other products. In February, for example, it will produce the first issue of a pre-stamped envelope made of recycled paper. ☐



Resources



The following publications are available at no charge from the EPA RCRA/Superfund Hotline. Call (800)424-9346 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST.

The Environmental Consumer's Handbook (EPA/530-SW-90-034B). Describes over 75 practical steps that individuals can take to reduce and recycle their trash.

Sites for Our Solid Waste: A Guidebook for Effective Public Involvement (EPA/530-SW-90-019). Describes how to develop a facility siting strategy that effectively involves the community. A pamphlet entitled *Siting Our Solid Waste: Making Public Involvement Work* (EPA/530-SW-90-020) is also available.

Unit Pricing: Providing an Incentive to Reduce Waste (EPA/530-SW-91-005). Provides an introduction to unit pricing and identifies some of the issues that solid waste managers must consider in implementing variable rate collection programs in their communities.

Variable Rates in Solid Waste: Handbook for Solid Waste Officials - Volume I—Executive Summary (EPA/530-SW-90-084A). Explores the feasibility, design, and operational considerations of different types of unit pricing programs. *Volume II—Detailed Manual* (EPA/530-SW-90-084B) describes the steps needed to determine the feasibility of a variable rate program, and to design and implement a system tailored to a community's specific needs. Volume II is available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Call (703)487-4650 and ask for PB90-272 063. Also available from NTIS is *The Effects of Weight- or Volume-Based Pricing on Solid Waste Management* (EPA/530-SW-90-047), which describes how unit pricing works, and explains the effects of such a system on households and communities.

A Look at Unit Pricing

Waste managers in many parts of the country are seeking new ways to solve the problems of diminishing landfill space and rising costs. Unit pricing of garbage collection, where customers pay for waste pickup based on the volume or weight of the waste they produce, has shown promise in reducing both the amount of the waste and the cost of collection. Several recent EPA publications provide valuable background information, as well as practical tips, on implementing unit pricing programs in communities.

Unit Pricing: Providing an Incentive to Reduce Waste provides an introduction to unit pricing and describes some of the issues solid waste managers must consider when im-

plementing a weight- or volume-based collection program.

Variable Rates in Solid Waste: Handbook for Solid Waste Officials provides information on a volume-based MSW collection program implemented in Seattle, Washington, 9 years ago. The program garnered widespread participation in waste reduction and recycling efforts and significantly reduced the amount of trash entering the waste stream. In addition to describing Seattle's program, the handbook explores the feasibility, design, and operational considerations of different types of unit pricing programs to assist communities nationwide in implementing programs geared to their needs.

Another EPA report, *The Effects of Weight- or Volume-Based Pricing on Solid Waste Management*, describes in detail how unit pricing works, and explains the effects of such a system on households and communities. It also presents case studies from three communities where unit pricing systems have been implemented. In these communities, unit pricing has resulted in decreases in overall waste generation, reductions in conventional waste collection, and increased participation in voluntary or mandatory recycling programs.

See the "Hot Off the Hotline" box on page 5 for information on how to order these three publications. 📖

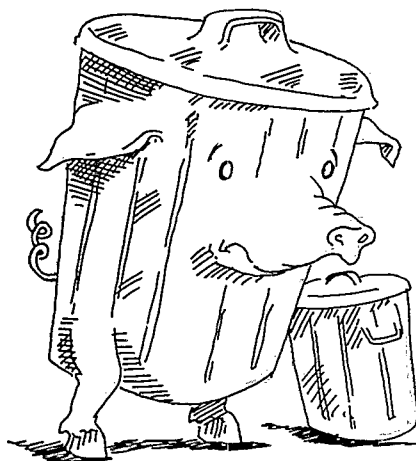
Seattle Puts Garbage Hogs on a Diet

Under a unit pricing program in Seattle, Washington, the city bills citizens for refuse collection based on the volume of waste they generate. Households can fill either *mini cans* (about 1/3 the size of typical garbage cans) or the *garbage hog* (which, as its name implies, holds a lot of garbage). Citizens are then billed according to the size and number of cans they put at the curb.

The system, which is called a "variable can" or "volume-based rate structure" system, has proven to be an effective incentive for producing less trash. Since the program's introduction 9 years ago, Seattle households have reduced the average number of trash cans filled per week from three-and-one-half to just over one can.

The volume-based rates have also contributed to the success of Seattle's recycling programs. The city has achieved a 75 percent sign-up rate in its curbside recycling program,

and, in 1989, succeeded in diverting about 420,000 tons of waste for recycling, or 756 pounds per participating household. A curbside yard waste program diverted over 31,000 tons of residential waste to a composting facility.



Seattle has recently begun experimenting with a weight-based variable rate system. Under a program funded by EPA, Seattle is fitting garbage trucks with scales and electronic bar-coding equipment to enable the city to charge customers for waste pickup by the pound. Weight-based rates may provide an even greater incentive to reduce waste. With volume-based systems, citizens must reduce their trash by an entire can to see a difference in their rate structure. With weight-based systems, every item of trash makes a difference. 📖

Pricing for Success

Two communities were studied in 1987-1989 to determine the effect of unit pricing on waste collection and management. Both communities initiated mandatory unit pricing programs in 1988 and both had recycling programs in place during the study. Perkasio, Pennsylvania, a small suburban community, decreased its waste generation by 18 percent during that time period. Ilion, New York, a semirural area, reduced its waste by 29 percent.

Unit pricing also resulted in large increases in recycling in these communities. In Perkasio, Pennsylvania, the weight of recycled materials collected increased by 190 percent due to unit pricing. Ilion realized a net increase in voluntarily recycled materials of 130 percent.

In addition, the unit pricing system enabled both communities to save in overall annual costs of waste management. Although the costs of collection with unit pricing were slightly higher than the costs for conventional waste disposal, these were more than offset by the "avoided" costs of tipping fees for additional waste *not* generated under the unit pricing program. 📖

Cities Meet the Recycling Challenge

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation have created a new awards program to recognize outstanding urban recycling programs and to promote recycling nationwide. It's particularly important to acknowledge successful recycling efforts in cities, given the high population densities and the economic and demographic complexities of urban centers, which can make recycling challenging. The winning programs will serve as models for other communities, with booklets describing successful efforts available for national distribution.

A grand award winner will be selected in each of two categories:



1) cities with populations of 100,000 and above, and 2) cities with populations of less than 100,000. Cities that have participated in regional or

community recycling efforts may also apply. Each winner will receive a \$20,000 grant to be used for public education programs on recycling. Four Honorable Mention winners will also be named.

The panel of judges for the recycling awards will include representatives from academia, environmental organizations, and government. Application forms were sent to all mayors in October. The application deadline is February 1, 1991. For others interested in receiving an application or further information, call Ron Musselwhite, U.S. Conference of Mayors, (202) 293-7330. ☐

Maricopa County, Arizona, Uses Constructive Process to Site Landfill

Public officials that are responsible for siting MSW landfills and combustors must grapple with a complex set of issues and community attitudes. These issues must be resolved if the siting is to be successful.

In Maricopa County, Arizona, public officials developed a successful siting strategy by involving the public throughout the decision-making process.

Maricopa County officials joined forces with the City of Phoenix to construct a new landfill in the Phoenix metropolitan area several years ago. They did not anticipate opposition to the project since the proposed siting area consisted of desert or undeveloped farmland. But at the first public meeting held to discuss the proposed sites, several hundred angry residents opposed the siting. Maricopa County officials responded

to the opposition by creating a public involvement program that gave residents an important role in the decision-making process.

The Maricopa County officials worked to reach consensus with citizens on many controversial issues during the siting process. During the site selection phase, the officials worked with a citizen advisory committee of 28 people to develop site selection criteria (such as the potential for impacts on water quality, noise levels, and traffic congestion) for evaluating potential sites. Using this process, the initial 24 sites proposed for the facility were reduced to 7, which underwent more intense study. When the final site was selected, the feedback from public hearings was strongly supportive. During the project design, public involvement continued, with citizens and public officials working together to minimize visual and traffic impacts, as well as threats to area water supplies.

EPA has published a guidebook for officials who would like to learn more about how to involve the public effectively in the siting process. The guidebook, entitled *Sites for Our Solid Waste: A Guidebook for Effective Public Involvement*, is now available from the RCRA/Superfund Hotline. See the "Hot Off the Hotline" box on page 5 for ordering information. ☐

Did You Know...



The average household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year; as much as 100 pounds can accumulate in the home and remain there until the family moves or cleans it out. ☐

Youths Learn Crime Doesn't Pay... But Recycling Does



In Montgomery County, Tennessee, youths who are assigned public service work by the Court are likely to find themselves knee deep in trash. Under a program started in 1989, juveniles who have committed minor offenses, such as traffic violations, are being required to locate recyclables in their community, match them with available markets, and donate recycling proceeds to local charities. In the past year, 72 youths assigned to public service in recycling have donated a total of \$3,600!

Each youth is given from 8 to 40 hours of community service work. For every 8 hours of work detail assigned, each youth must collect and redeem \$25 worth of recyclables. To get them started, case workers provide youths

with a list of local recycling centers and materials that can be recycled, information about recycling and related environmental issues, and the names of charities in the area.

The youths then go door-to-door in the community or to local businesses to find items that could be recycled. They bring these recyclables to recycling centers and give the money they earn to a charity of their choice.

Thus far, the program has been enthusiastically received by parents and Juvenile Court Judges. By getting involved in recycling efforts in the community, youths are able to fulfill their obligation to the Court, while gaining environmental awareness. ♻️

EPA Calls for Comments on Paper Procurement Issues

(Continued from page 1)

meeting the guideline's minimum content standards, rather than increasing their use of recovered materials, EPA is requesting comments on how to revise the definition to exclude this practice.

The notice also alerts procuring agencies that they have a statutory obligation to promote procurement of products with recycled content and describes a new process for expediting EPA assistance to procuring agencies. The process involves the use of Procurement Guideline Advisories (PGAs), which are memos to procuring agencies containing new information about markets for products covered by the procurement guidelines.

In the notice, EPA also recommends to government procurement agencies that it would be appropriate to include in their minimum content standards paper containing recovered sawdust from two mills in Maine.

To obtain a copy of the *Federal Register* notice or for more information on EPA's procurement guidelines, call EPA's Procurement Guidelines Hotline at (703) 941-4452. 📞

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